



Forest Service

George Washington &

Jefferson National

Forests

5162 Valleypointe Pkwy.

Roanoke, VA 24019

(540) 265-5100

www.fs.usda.gov/gwj/



News Release

Media Contact: JoBeth Brown (540) 265-5100

jobethbrown@fs.fed.us

Forest Service Issues Permit to Survey Additional Routes on the George Washington National Forest for Proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline

(May 6, 2015) Roanoke, VA-- The Forest Service issued a temporary special use permit to survey 4.4 miles of additional routes on the George Washington National Forest for the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline in Highland and Augusta counties, VA. Surveys for wetlands, water, soil, and suitable habitat for sensitive species, including federally listed threatened and endangered plants and animals will be conducted within the next year. Surveys will also record cultural resources and invasive species.

“The information gathered from these surveys is needed for federal agencies to make informed decisions on whether or not to allow construction and operation of the proposed natural gas pipeline, and if allowed, to avoid, or reduce the impacts to sensitive resources,” explains Forest Supervisor Tom Speaks. “It is important to remember that allowing these survey activities does not mean we are allowing the construction of a pipeline on national forest lands.”

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), as the lead federal agency, will conduct an in-depth environmental analysis on private and public lands, with many opportunities for public comments.

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